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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/843,073

Examiner

Jennifer A. Poker

Applicant(s)

OKAMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2832

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/05/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 8-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 February 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date 2-24-04.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li><li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li><li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____</li><li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li><li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____</li><li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li><li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li><li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li></ol> |
|--|--|

**LINCOLN DONOVAN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**GROUP 2100**

## REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

No prior art of record or combination thereof teaches a press button switch (and method of manufacture) comprising a base body; a protective film formed on the base body; an undercoat layer formed on the protective film of which a surface, demonstrates a metallic color; a printed layer formed over the undercoat layer; a molded film formed over the printed layer and the undercoat layer in order to cover the printed and undercoat layers; wherein the molded film and the printed layer allow transmission of the metallic color of the undercoat layer; and wherein the protective film prevents heat from being transmitted from the base body to the undercoat layer.

Closest related art found was, U.S. Patent Number 6,322,875 to Kimura and U.S. Patent Number 6,084,190 to Kenmochi.

Kimura discloses key top for assembly in a push button switch comprising a base key top; an inorganic thin membrane located above the surface of the key top, characterized by rainbow-colored luster; a transparent high polymer protective membrane on the surface of the inorganic thin membrane; a method of metal plating used for placing layers upon surfaces of others; a layer between the base and the inorganic thin membrane, in order to protect the printed layer of a letter or symbol; and a hollowed section located at the bottom end of the switch.

Kimura does not teach, however, the printed layer being located over the undercoat layer, but, rather, the inorganic thin-film layer being between the protecting layer and the printed layer.

Kenmochi does not teach this layer's location either.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer A. Poker whose telephone number is 571-272-1997. The examiner can normally be reached on 4:30-3:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jap  
August 31, 2004

  
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